

CHARTER OF THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE INVENTORY AND MONITORING NETWORK (GRYN)

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to describe the basic practices that will be used to plan, organize, manage, evaluate and modify the efforts of the Greater Yellowstone Inventory and Monitoring Network (GRYN) in its pursuit of the intent and purposes of the of the National Park Service, Natural Resource Challenge with respect to the inventory and monitoring of natural resources.

The network is comprised of four units of the National Park System. They are Yellowstone National Park (YELL), Grand Teton National Park (GRTE), John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway (JODR), and Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area (BICA).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of GRYN is committed to operate in and foster an atmosphere of fairness, trust, and mutual respect with all of the network partners. It will pursue a holistic approach in implementing the I&M program using scientifically credible standards while serving the needs of all network partners.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTOR

The major responsibilities of the GRYN Board of Directors will be to:

- Promote accountability and oversee the I&M Program by reviewing progress towards Servicewide and GRYN I&M goals as described in annual accomplishment reports and work plans.
- Provide guidance to the Technical Committee and natural resource staffs of the GRYN in the design and implementation of vital signs monitoring and other management activities related to the Natural Resource Challenge.
- Support strategies and procedures for leveraging GRYN funds and personnel to best accomplish monitoring of natural resources in the GRYN units.
- Consult on and approve hiring of new permanent NPS personnel using funding provided to the GRYN from I&M base funds and/or other sources.
- Seek professional guidance with other individuals, organizations and networks and promote productive partnerships between groups.
- Communicate the progress of the I&M program to park managers and park staff

MEMBERSHIP

The GRYN Board of Directors is comprised of the superintendents of Yellowstone, Grand Teton (including JODR), and Bighorn Canyon units, or their designees, and the Intermountain Region's Inventory and Monitoring Coordinator (ex officio). The staff to the Board of Directors will be the I&M Program Manager and the chair of the Technical Committee.

The initial Chair of the Board of Directors shall be the Yellowstone representative but Chair will rotate at two-year intervals to Bighorn Canyon NRA, Yellowstone NP and then Grand Teton NP representatives.

BOARD MEETINGS

Any member can call meetings of the Board, but there will be at least one formal, announced meeting annually. Formal meetings will be called by the Board Chair, who will assure proper logistics and planning is done, and that a written agenda is distributed at least one week prior to the meeting. Conference calls may be scheduled by any Board member at any time.

ALTERNATES AND QUORUMS

Any Board member who cannot attend a meeting of the Board may assign an alternate who shall have full voting authority. Two *officio* Board members constitute a quorum.

DECISION MAKING

Every effort will be made by the Board members to reach unanimity on all significant decisions. When this is not possible, two of the three voting members constitute a majority decision. Decisions will be recorded in the meeting minutes and sent to all members in a timely fashion. If needed, the IMR Regional Coordinator or designee will cast the tie-breaking vote.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The primary purpose of the Technical Committee is to guide I&M planning activities and operations to ensure program accountability and relevance to resource stewardship. To achieve these ends, the Technical Committee provides logistical and technical guidance to the I&M Program Manager and advises the Board of Directors regarding I&M work plans and annual administrative reports.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The major responsibilities of the GRYN Technical Committee will be to:

- Review and recommend annual work plans, budgets and staffing plan proposals for approval by the BOD.
- Review and recommend annual accomplishment reports for approval by the BOD
- Evaluate and recommend proposals, plans and final reports

- Ensure scientific credibility of the I & M program by cooperating with the I&M Program Manager and Regional I&M Coordinator to solicit and respond to peer review of protocols and products from the scientific community and other individuals and organizations.
- Ensure that GRYN inventory and monitoring information is integrated into park planning and management in accordance with regulations and NPS policy.
- Ensure that the network inventory and monitoring work is fully integrated with park resource management programs and other NPS natural resource funding initiatives.
- Develop and foster partnerships with other agencies and organizations which support overall I&M objectives
- Serve as liaison between the I&M program and park managers by communicating results and making management recommendations.

MEMBERSHIP

The Technical Committee includes at least one member of the natural resource staff from each of the member parks, the I&M Program Manager and may include the Regional Inventory and Monitoring Coordinator. The chair will serve 24 months and if approved by the Technical Committee, may serve four consecutive terms. The chair of the Technical Committee is responsible for organizing conference calls and workshops, preparing minutes and following up on recommendations of the committee. The chair communicates with the program manager (unless the same) and the program manager will communicate with the Board of Directors on issues that require their involvement.

VOTING

In the event a vote by the Technical Committee is needed, each network park will cast a single vote. Two of the three voting members will constitute a majority vote. The outcome of voting will be recorded in the meeting minutes and sent to all members in a timely fashion.

PROCEDURES

VITAL SIGNS MONITORING (VSM) PLAN: A monitoring plan to guide the long term program of the network has been prepared according to the schedule set out by the WASO-Inventory and Monitoring Program. The VSM plan explains what will be monitored and why, specific monitoring objectives, and includes plans for quality assurance procedures and reporting. This document also includes plans for Water Quality Monitoring as specified in guidance from the NPS-Water Resources Division.

ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT & WORK PLAN (AARWP): The I&M Program Manager, working with the Technical Committee, will complete an annual administrative report and work plan for consideration and approval by the Board of Directors, Regional I&M Coordinator and WASO-Inventory and

Monitoring Program, following national guidance for content and completion guidelines. This plan will include specific tasks, milestones, products and a budget that implements the Inventory and Monitoring plans in place for the GRYN. The AARWP will be reviewed by the Technical Committee and approved by the Board of Directors before being submitted to the Regional Office and WASO representatives.

FUNDING: Available I&M program funds will be distributed in strict accordance with approved annual work plans, following the guidance provided by the Associate Director for Natural Resource Stewardship and Science. All I&M Program funds must be strictly accounted for using a discrete PWE code and disclosed in the Annual Report. The Program Manager will prepare the annual budgets that will then be reviewed the Technical Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. Mid-year changes in the budget that do not impact the proposed work activities may be made by the Program Manager; changes that do impact the proposed work will be reviewed by the Technical Committee and forwarded to the Board of Directors and Regional I&M Coordinator before sending to WASO for approval. Additionally, funds contributed to the I&M program from any other source will be tracked and reported in the Annual Report.

Amendments: The Board of Directors may make amendments to the Charter at any time. All GRYN Technical Committee and Board of Director members and the Regional I&M Coordinator will be provided at least a 30 day notice of any proposed amendments before they take effect.

APPROVAL SIGNATURES:



Frank Walker, Deputy Superintendent
Yellowstone National Park

8/14/06

Date



Jim Bellamy, Deputy Superintendent
Grand Teton National Park

8/21/06

Date



Darrell Cook, Superintendent
Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area

8/28/06

Date



Bruce Bingham, Intermountain I&M Coordinator
Intermountain Support Office

8/30/06

Date